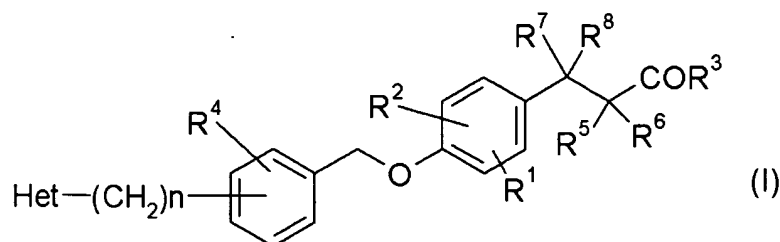


## Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:



wherein Het is an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

N is 0 or 1,

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or a halogen atom,

R<sup>3</sup> is an optionally substituted hydroxy group or an optionally substituted amino group,

R<sup>4</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted hydroxy group or an optionally substituted amino group,

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or a halogen atom, and

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a halogen atom or an optionally substituted hydroxy group,

or a salt thereof (except

4-[[3-(2-pyrazinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,

methyl 4-[[3-(2-pyrazinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,

methyl 4-[[3-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,

4-[[3-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,

4-[[3-(2-thiazolyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,

methyl 4-[[3-(2-thiazolyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,

4-[[3-(1H-pyrrol-1-yl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,

methyl 4-[[3-(1H-pyrrol-1-yl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,

4-[[3-(3-furyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,

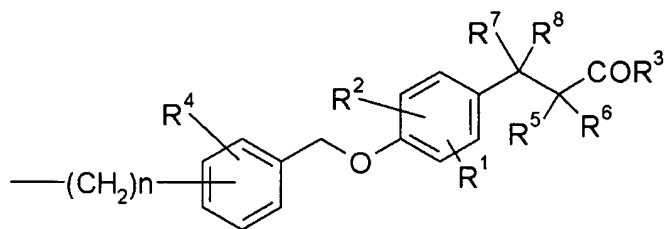
methyl 4-[[3-(3-furyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,

4-[[3-(5-pyrimidinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,

4-[[3-(2-pyridinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,  
 methyl 4-[[3-(2-pyridinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,  
 4-[[3-(2-pyrimidinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,  
 methyl 4-[[3-(2-pyrimidinyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,  
 4-[[3-(2-thienyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid,  
 methyl 4-[[3-(2-thienyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate,  
 4-[[3-(2-thienyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid and  
 methyl 4-[[3-(2-thienyl)phenyl]methoxy]benzenepropanoate).

**2. (Original)** A prodrug of a compound of claim 1.

**3. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein the heterocyclic group represented by Het is a heterocyclic group containing at least one nitrogen atom as a ring-constituting atom and the nitrogen atom is bonded to a group represented by the following formula:



wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 1.

**4. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is a hydroxy group.

**5. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein  $n$  is 1.

**6. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom.

**7. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein  $R^4$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group.

**8. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are hydrogen atoms.

**9. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are hydrogen atoms.

**10. (Original)** A compound of claim 1, which is 3-(4-{[3-(1-benzothiophen-3-yl)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid;

3-(4-{[3-(2-methyl-3,4-dihydroquinolin-1(2H)-yl)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid;

3-[4-({4-[(2-phenyl-1H-indol-1-yl)methyl]benzyl}oxy)phenyl]propanoic acid;

3-[2-fluoro-4-({4-[(2-phenyl-1H-indol-1-yl)methyl]benzyl}oxy)phenyl]propanoic acid;

3-[4-({4-[(2,5-diphenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methyl]benzyl}oxy)phenyl]propanoic acid;

3-(4-{[4-({5-(2-phenylethyl)-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H-pyrazol-1-yl}methyl)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid;

3-[4-({4-[(3,5-diphenyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)methyl]benzyl}oxy)phenyl]propanoic acid;

3-{4-[(4-{[3-tert-butyl-5-(phenoxy)methyl]-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]methyl}benzyl)oxy]-2-fluorophenyl}propanoic acid;

3-{4-[(4-{[5-(benzyloxy)-3-tert-butyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]methyl}benzyl)oxy]-2-fluorophenyl}propanoic acid;

3-(4-{[4-({3-tert-butyl-5-[(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)methoxy]-1H-pyrazol-1-yl}methyl)benzyl]oxy}-2-fluorophenyl)propanoic acid or a salt thereof.

**11. (Original)** A GPR40 receptor function modulator comprising a compound of claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

**12. (Original)** An insulin secretagogue comprising a compound of claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

**13. (Original)** A pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound of claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

**14. (Original)** A pharmaceutical agent of claim 13, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes.

**15-17. (Cancelled)**

**18. (Original)** A method of modulating a GPR40 receptor function in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.

**19. (Original)** A method of promoting insulin secretion in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.

**20. (Original)** A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.